

California's Action on Global Warming



"I say the debate is over. We know the science. We see the threat. And we know the time for action is now."

Governor
Schwarzenegger
June 1, 2005



California is a leader for the nation and the world in establishing ground-breaking policies that protect the environment and also provide economic benefits.

California's efforts to advance clean energy solutions and take aggressive action on global warming have a significant impact by:

- **Saving energy** through efficiency and conservation and eliminating the need for new power plants.
- **Stimulating renewable energy** production and sales.
- **Encouraging investment** in emerging technologies.
- **Aggressively reducing emissions** from carbon dioxide that cause global warming.

The state has now begun its ambitious effort to implement landmark legislation limiting emissions that cause global warming. People across the globe are paying close attention.

California's regulators and policy makers are committed to taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight global warming for the state's residents and economy. On September 27, 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the legislatively-adopted Assembly Bill No. 32 (AB 32), the California **Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006**.

The Act caps California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at 1990 levels by 2020. This landmark legislation represents the first enforceable statewide program in the United States to limit all GHG emissions from major industries.

Governor's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

- 2010:** Emissions at 2000 levels
59 million tons emission reductions
11% below business as usual
- 2020:** Emissions at 1990 levels
145 million tons emission reductions
25% below business as usual
- 2050:** emissions 80% below 1990 levels

The Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) establishes a mandatory reporting system to monitor greenhouse gas emission (GHG) levels. AB32 requires a limit on emissions by 2020, to the levels of 30 years earlier, in 1990. It directs the achievement of the maximum cost-effective emission reductions technologically feasible. The bill authorizes the development of a market-based program for compliance.

Principles to implement¹ the limit or "cap" on emissions:

- Distribute costs and benefits equitably
- Protect entities that have already reduced their emissions voluntarily
- Ensure that there are no direct, indirect, or cumulative increases in air pollution in local communities

¹ AB32 gives the California Air Resources Board new authority to direct compliance with the emissions limit according to these principles.

For more information:

California Public Utilities Commission
www.cpuc.ca.gov

California Energy Commission
www.energy.ca.gov

California Air Resources Board
www.arb.ca.gov

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California has a long-standing history of action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through world leading energy efficiency standards and programs, solid waste diversion and reuse programs, and the expansion of the use of alternative fuels. The state has taken a national leadership role by adopting aggressive legislation that sets motor vehicle emission standards, a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring 20 percent electricity to be supplied by renewable power by 2010, and a statewide limit on greenhouse gas emissions from major industries.

California's Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- 1977:** California was the first state in the nation to adopt efficiency standards for appliances and for new buildings in 1978.
- 2002:** The California Legislature passed the world's first law to limit global warming pollution from cars.
- Senate Bill 1078 established the California Renewable Portfolio Standard which required utilities to increase renewable generation with a goal of 20% by 2017.
- 2003:** California's key energy agencies—the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Energy Commission—joined together in unprecedented cooperation to adopt an **Energy Action Plan**.
- 2005:** Senate Bill 107 advances the **Renewable Portfolio Standard** date for utilities in California to achieve 20% renewable generation— from 2017 to 2010.
- 2007:** The CPUC institutes an **Emissions Performance Standard** for generators to prevent long-term contracts that increase GHG emission levels while AB32 is designed and implemented.
- 2010:** Utilities in California to obtain 20% of their power from eligible renewable resources by 2010.
- 2013:** Energy efficiency efforts in California will eliminate the need for 10 new power plants and save 9 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions (equal to 1.8 million cars off the road).

The Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) directs the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to track and enforce compliance with the emissions limit of reduction to 1990 levels by 2020. Under the bill, the ARB will develop a regulatory framework of emission reduction strategies which may include programs, measures, and market-based flexible compliance options.

AB 32 Timeline¹

- by July 1, 2007** Advisory committees form to recommend and adopt early action measures that can be implemented by January 1, 2010.
- by January 1, 2008** Adopt regulations for mandatory GHG emissions reporting. Define 1990 emissions baseline for California and adopt that as the 2020 statewide cap.
- by January 1, 2009** Prepare and adopt a plan for achieving significant reductions.
- by January 1, 2011** Adopt regulations to achieve maximum feasible and cost-effective reductions.
- by January 1, 2012** GHG rules and market mechanisms take effect and are enforceable.
- by December 31, 2020** Deadline for achieving 2020 GHG emissions cap.

¹ AB32 gives the California's State Air Resources Board (ARB) new authority to direct these objectives.

For more information
contact these state agencies:

California Public Utilities Commission
www.cpuc.ca.gov
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